

II. Listing of Claims

These claims are not amended in this Response, but are provided strictly for the Examiner's convenience.

1-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) A vertebral replacement implant for interposition in a space left by one or more removed vertebrae between adjacent intact vertebrae, comprising:

a tubular body having opposite ends and sized to span at least a portion of the space between the intact vertebrae;

a pair of endplate assemblies attached to each of the opposite ends of the body, each of the endplate assemblies having an end surface and a tubular portion defining a bore therethrough extending through the end surface; and

a basket disposed within at least one of the bores.

25. (Original) The vertebral replacement implant according to claim 24 wherein the basket is suitable for receiving graft material.

26. (Original) The vertebral replacement implant according to claim 24 wherein the basket extends into the tubular body.

27. (Original) The vertebral replacement implant according to claim 24

wherein the basket includes at least one positioning tab; and

wherein the end surface includes at least one positioning recess configured to engage the at least one positioning tab.

28. (Previously Presented) The vertebral replacement implant according to claim 24

wherein the tubular portion has first threads defined thereon; and

wherein the basket has second threads thereon configured to threadedly engage the first threads on the cylindrical portion.

29. (Original) The vertebral replacement implant according to claim 24

wherein the basket includes one or more apertures.

30. (Original) The vertebral replacement implant according to claim 29 wherein the apertures extend over more than 50% of the basket.

31. (Original) The vertebral replacement implant according to claim 24, wherein the tubular body includes a wall defining a hollow interior, the wall further defining a plurality of openings therethrough, the openings being in communication with the hollow interior.

32. (Original) The vertebral replacement implant according to claim 31, wherein the openings are sized to allow a graft material entry into the hollow interior.

33. (Original) The vertebral replacement implant according to claim 31, wherein after the interposition in the space left by one or more vertebrae, at least one of the openings is accessible.

34. (Original) The vertebral replacement implant according to claim 31,
wherein the basket includes one or more apertures; and
wherein the openings are sized to provide a line of sight through the openings, through the hollow interior, through the one or more apertures, and into the cavity of the basket.

35 - 39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) A graft containment device for use with a vertebral implant having an internal cavity, the graft containment device comprising:

a sidewall;

an open end; and

an engagement device for maintaining the graft containment device within the cavity of the vertebral implant.

41. (Original) The graft containment device of claim 40 wherein the engagement device suspends the graft containment device within the cavity of the vertebral implant.

42. (Original) The graft containment device of claim 40 wherein the engagement device comprises at least one tab.

43. (Original) The graft containment device of claim 40 wherein the engagement device comprises a flange integrated with the sidewall.

44. (Original) The graft containment device of claim 40 wherein engagement device comprises external threads.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Original) A tubular vertebral implant device for interposition between two vertebral endplates, the tubular vertebral implant device comprising

a tubular assembly having a sidewall; and

a graft containment device, having an open end, disposed in at least one end of the tubular assembly.

47. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 46 wherein the graft containment device is removable.

48. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 46 wherein the tubular assembly is expandable.

49. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 46 further comprising windows through the sidewall to permit the placement of graft material into the tubular assembly.

50. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 46 wherein the graft containment device opens toward the adjacent vertebral endplate.

51. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 46 wherein the graft containment device extends less than half the length of the side wall.

52. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 46 wherein the sidewall comprises a plurality of apertures extending over more than half of the sidewall.

53. (Original) The vertebral implant device of claim 46 wherein the graft containment device comprises a resorbable material.

54. (Original) A method of installing a vertebral implant device, the vertebral implant device having a supporting tubular member and a graft containment device adapted to be received within a portion of the tubular member, the method comprising:

- packing the graft containment device with bone growth promoting material;
- positioning the graft containment device in the tubular member; and
- implanting the vertebral implant device between a pair of vertebral endplates of a spine.

55. (Original) The method of claim 54 further comprising filling at least a portion of the vertebral implant with bone growth promoting material.

56. (Original) The method of claim 54 further comprising moving the graft containment device toward the adjacent vertebra thereby creating a space within the vertebral implant device.

57. (Original) The method of 54 further comprising filling at least a portion of the space with bone growth promoting material.

58. (Previously Presented) An implant for interposition between a pair of vertebral bodies, the implant comprising:

- first and second tubular bodies;
- a connector engaged between the first and second tubular bodies;
- an endplate assembly attached to at least one of the tubular bodies, the endplate assembly comprising a bore; and
- a basket engaged with the endplate assembly, wherein the basket comprises a cavity adapted to extend into the bore and receive bone graft.

59. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 58 wherein the basket further comprises a cylindrical wall bounded by a base, wherein the cavity is defined by the cylindrical wall and base.

60. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 58 wherein the basket is threadedly engaged with the endplate assembly.

61. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 58 wherein the endplate assembly comprises an end surface and the basket further comprises at least one tab adapted to press fit with a recess formed in the end surface.